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Serial No.: 10/813,806

Filed: March 31, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A percutaneous insertion system, comprising:
a needle assembly having a proximal end, a distal end, and a passageway extending therebetween, the distal end comprising an elongated needle for percutaneous entry into a body vessel for withdrawing a body fluid therefrom, and the proximal end comprising a needle hub;
a needle hub attachment assembly having a proximal end, a distal end, and a passageway extending therebetween, the distal end of said needle hub attachment assembly sized and configured for leak-free engagement with said needle hub, the needle hub attachment assembly comprising a chamber communicating with said needle assembly for receiving said body fluid; and
an assembly comprising a hemostatic segment, said assembly having a proximal end, a distal end, and a passageway extending therebetween, said hemostatic segment comprising a valve positioned in said passageway at said proximal end of said assembly and having an opening permitting passage of a wire guide therethrough, said distal end sized and configured for leak-free engagement with the proximal end of said needle hub attachment assembly, said passageway aligned with said needle assembly passageway and said needle hub attachment assembly passageway to form a path for insertion of said wire guide into said body vessel, wherein the distal end of said assembly comprising a hemostatic segment tapers to an endhole having a diameter substantially the same as the diameter of the wire guide.

2. (original) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 1, wherein the assembly comprising a hemostatic segment comprises a wire guide inserter.

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3. (original) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 1, wherein the assembly comprising a hemostatic segment comprises a wire guide holder.

4. (original) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 3, wherein said wire guide holder is pre-loaded with a wire guide.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 1, wherein said valve comprises an elastomeric valve.

8. (previously presented) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 1, wherein said valve tapers to an endhole having a diameter substantially the same as the diameter of the wire guide.

9. (currently amended) The percutaneous insertion system of claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein the needle hub attachment assembly comprises an elastomeric valve.

10. (original) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 9, wherein said tapering distal end of said assembly comprising a hemostatic segment is received in said elastomeric valve of said needle hub attachment assembly.

11. (original) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 1, wherein the needle hub attachment assembly comprises a substantially transparent or translucent outer surface.

12. (original) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 3, wherein the wire guide holder comprises a generally looped configuration, said wire guide holder further comprising fasteners to maintain said holder in the looped configuration.

13. (original) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said leak-free engagements comprises a luer lock assembly.

14. (original) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said leak-free engagements comprises a threaded connection.

15. (canceled)

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16. (currently amended) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 15 ~~1~~, wherein the distal end of said needle hub attachment is connectable to a catheter.

17. (currently amended) A percutaneous insertion system, comprising:

a needle assembly having a proximal end, a distal end, and a passageway extending therebetween, the distal end comprising an elongated needle for percutaneous entry into a body vessel for withdrawing a body fluid therefrom, the proximal end comprising a hub, said needle assembly including a first hemostatic segment; and

an assembly comprising a second hemostatic segment, said assembly having a proximal end, a distal end, and a passageway extending therebetween, said distal end sized and configured for leak-free engagement with the proximal end of said needle assembly, said passageway aligned with said needle assembly passageway to form a path for insertion of a wire guide into said body vessel, said second hemostatic segment comprising a valve positioned in said passageway at said proximal end of said assembly and having an opening permitting passage of said wire guide therethrough, wherein the distal end of said assembly comprising a second hemostatic segment tapers to an endhole having a diameter substantially the same as the diameter of the wire guide.

18. (previously presented) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 17, wherein the assembly comprising a second hemostatic segment comprises a wire guide inserter.

19. (previously presented) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 17, wherein the assembly comprising a second hemostatic segment comprises a wire guide holder.

20. (original) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 17, wherein said needle assembly includes a chamber for receiving said body fluid, said chamber being formed of a material having a substantially transparent or translucent outer surface.

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21. (previously presented) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 17, wherein at least one of said first and second hemostatic segments comprises an elastomeric valve.

22. (currently amended) The percutaneous insertion system of claim ~~21~~17, wherein said second hemostatic segment comprises a valve, and wherein said valve tapers to an endhole having a diameter substantially the same as the diameter of the wire guide.

23. (original) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 18, wherein the wire guide inserter has a reverse flared tip, and wherein the proximal end of said needle hub attachment assembly is shaped to conform to said reverse flare to comprise said leak-free engagement.

24. (previously presented) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 23, wherein the distal end of said needle hub attachment is connectable to a catheter.

25-28 (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 1, further comprising a hemostatic segment positioned in said needle hub attachment assembly.

30. (previously presented) A percutaneous insertion system, comprising:
a needle assembly having a proximal end, a distal end, and a passageway extending therebetween, the distal end comprising an elongated needle for percutaneous entry into a body vessel for withdrawing a body fluid therefrom, the proximal end comprising a hub; and

an assembly comprising a hemostatic segment, said assembly having a proximal end, a distal end, and a passageway extending therebetween, said distal end sized and configured for leak-free engagement with the proximal end of said needle assembly, said passageway aligned with said needle assembly passageway to form a path for insertion of a wire guide into said body vessel, said hemostatic segment comprising a valve positioned in said passageway at said proximal end of said

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assembly, said valve tapering in a distal direction to an endhole having a diameter substantially the same as the diameter of the wire guide.

31. (previously presented) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 30, further comprising a chamber in one of said assemblies for receiving withdrawn body fluid, said chamber having a substantially transparent outer covering for providing visual verification of the presence of fluid in the chamber.

32. (previously presented) The percutaneous insertion system of claim 30, wherein said assembly comprising a hemostatic segment comprises a wire guide holder.